

The assessment of research capacities in social sciences in Macedonia

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The assessment of research capacities in social sciences in Macedonia

Skopje, December 2008

Prepared by the Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in the framework of the Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP), which is run by the University of Fribourg upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Table of Contents

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>6</u>
I. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	6
II. BRIEF REVIEW OF THE CONTEXT	8
<u>CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK – AN OVERVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM AND RESEARCH RELATED POLICIES</u>	<u>10</u>
1.1. STATE-LEVEL BODIES	10
1.1.1. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE - SCIENCE SECTOR.....	10
1.1.2. COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY.....	10
1.1.3. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH.....	10
1.1.4. ETHICAL BOARD	10
1.2. NATIONAL POLICIES ON RESEARCH ACTIVITY	11
1.2.1. LAW ON SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY	11
1.2.2. LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION.....	12
1.2.3. NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY	12
1.2.4. BOLOGNA DECLARATION	13
1.3. FUNDING RESEARCH	13
1.4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.....	14
<u>CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE RESEARCH ACTORS/INSTITUTIONS</u>	<u>15</u>
2.1. MACEDONIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	16
2.2. UNIVERSITIES	16
2.2.1. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES	17
2.2.2. IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS.....	18
2.2.3. PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS	19
2.2.4 FUNDING	20
2.3. SCIENTIFIC/RESEARCH INSTITUTES.....	21
2.3.1. PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS	23
2.3.2. FUNDING.....	23
2.4. THINK-TANKS (POLICY RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS)	23
2.4.1. PUBLICATIONS AND JOURNALS.....	24
2.4.2. FUNDING.....	24
2.5. DONOR ORGANISATIONS.....	25
<u>CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES - ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.....</u>	<u>26</u>

3.1. STATUS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE NATIONAL POLICIES.....	26
3.2. QUALITY OF RESEARCH.....	28
3.3. REPRESENTATION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE INTERNATIONAL ON-LINE SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNALS	29
3.4. PROMOTED RESEARCH TOPICS	29
 CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS	 31
 APPENDIX 1: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ACTORS	 34
APPENDIX 2: LIST OF TOPICS RESEARCHED AND IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS	41

List of Abbreviations

BEA	Business Environment Activity
CEA	Center for Economic Analysis
CEEOL	Central and Eastern European Online Library
CRPM	Center for Research and Policy Making
EC	European Commission
EIDHR	European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights
EPRI	Economic Policy Research Institute
EUA	European University Association
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FORUM CSRD	FORUM-Center for Strategic Research and Documentation
FOSIM	Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia
JRC	Joint Research Centre
IDSC	Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis"
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISPJR	Institute for Social, Political and Judicial Research
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
LGU	Local Government Units
MANU	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
MDW Project	Make Decentralisation Work Project
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
NORMAK	Norwegian Assistance to the Republic of Macedonia
NSBD	National Strategy for Broadcast Development
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSI	Open Society Institute
RRPP	Regional Research Promotion Program
SEE	South East Europe
SEEU	South East European University
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TEMPUS	Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Students
UGD	University Goce Delcev
UKIM	University Ss. Cyril and Methodius
UKLO	University St. Kliment Ohridski
UNCHR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	The United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	The United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

The Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje compiled this report for the University of Fribourg as a part of the Regional Research Promotion Program in the Western Balkans (RRPP), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The report offers a review and critical analysis of the policies and decision making related to research work, institutions conducting and supporting social science research and gives an overview of the status of the research activity at the national level.

On the basis of the assessment conducted, recommendations for overcoming the detected systemic deficiencies and improving the status of the social science research are offered.

The first chapter provides a presentation of the organization of the national system for supporting research activity, including the policy-making bodies in the area, the relevant policies, the financing options, as well as the existing possibilities for international cooperation in research.

In the second chapter, the main research actors/institutions in Macedonia conducting social science research are presented (Academy of Arts and Sciences, Universities, Scientific Institutes, Policy Research Organisations), as well as the donor organizations supporting social science research. The focus of the assessment is on their human resources, areas of expertise, major accomplishments and the problems they encounter in their research work.

The third chapter provides a review of the status of the social science research in Macedonia. The state policies related to social science research are highlighted and statistical data on the representation of social science research within the country and outside the country is presented. The data indicate that social science research is not considered as a priority both within the national policy and within the international programmes for supporting research.

Finally, in the fourth chapter, recommendations are offered to each of the assessed research actors, aimed towards overcoming the detected deficiencies in their functioning and improving the status and the quality of social science research in Macedonia.

Introduction

The Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje compiled this report for the University of Freiburg as a part of the Regional Research Promotion Program in the Western Balkans (RRPP), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Its aim is to assess the current state of social science research in Macedonia by providing a review of the relevant policies, institutions, sources of financing and range of research projects. On the basis of the assessment conducted, recommendations for overcoming the detected systemic deficiencies and improving the status of the social science research are offered.

i. Research Methodology

For the purpose of this assessment, a wide array of institutions was contacted with the aim to provide data on their structure, functioning and potential problems they encounter in their research work. The institutions contacted were selected on the basis of their involvement in social science research activities, i.e. the ones detected to be most actively involved in social science research, either as implementers or as donors. Primarily, this included the state-level policy makers, such as the Ministry of Education and Science; the primary research actors; and the most relevant donor organisations.

Specifically, the **sample** consisted of one representative from the following institutions:

- The Ministry of Education and Science;
- The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU);
- 1 public university (Ss. Cyril and Methodius):
 - o Faculty of Economy
 - o Faculty of Law
 - o Faculty of Philosophy (with 5 departments) ;
- 1 private university (South East European University):
 - o Research Centre;
- 3 research (scientific) institutes:
 - o 1 independent: Euro Balkan
 - o 2 national: Institute for Sociological, Political and Judicial Research and Economic Institute;
- 8 policy research organisations (think thanks):
 - o Analytica
 - o CEA
 - o CRPM
 - o EPRI
 - o IDSC

- Studiorum
- Ohrid Institute
- FORUM-CSR

Additionally, the data for 8 donor organisations (FOSIM, UN, FES, USAID, KAS, OSCE, The World Bank the European Commission) was collected through review of relevant documents from the institutions.

The main **data-collection** instrument was a **questionnaire** which was adapted according to the type of institution surveyed (i.e. academic department/ faculty, research institute, think-tank organisation). It covered the following main areas:

- structure of the institution in terms of organisation and staff
- main interest areas
- more important research projects conducted and published
- sources of funding
- cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions
- problems encountered in their work on social science research projects
- upcoming activities/plans of the institution

Since the previous report on the social science research capacities¹ referred to the period until 2004, the questions mainly referred to the activities conducted/implemented since 2005.

On the basis on the pre-prepared questions, **semi-structured interviews** with the relevant stakeholders were conducted. Where this was not possible, the questionnaire was emailed with a request to complete it and send it back to CRPM. Communication was established with 18 out of 21 contacted parties, although the depth of the information provided varied. Additional data were collected by **reviewing relevant documents** (policy papers and legislatives) and official documents from the stakeholders included in the sample.

Since the data provided were primarily of qualitative nature, a **qualitative thematic analysis** and **analysis of documents** were the main data analysis method applied.

¹ compiled by Stanislava Dodeva from the Swiss Development Cooperation (2004)

ii. Brief review of the context

Prior to presenting the research findings, a brief overview of the context for social science research will be presented through a review of the relevant institutions, policies and finances.

Institutions

The scientific and research activity in Macedonia is organized within different public and private institutions (universities, national and independent research institutes, think-tanks, NGO's, international organizations etc.).

The main research-oriented human resources are produced and utilized within the **Universities**. Currently in Macedonia, there are 4 public, 6 private Universities and 11 private faculties accredited by the MoES. The majority of the newly established and accredited academic institutions are in their developmental phase, thus primarily concerned with the educational activities. The major research activities take place within the oldest state Ss. Cyril and Methodius (UKIM)- Skopje and one private i.e. University of South East Europe (SEEU) - Tetovo.

In the frames of UKIM, there are 10 **scientific institutes**, 2 of which from the field of social sciences. Also, 3 scientific institutes have been established within the frames of UKLO (University St. Kliment Ohridski). In addition to these national research institutes, one independent has been established in 2006.

Apart from the abovementioned scientific institutions, much of the applicative social science research is preformed within the **NGO sector** (primarily by think-thank organizations) and **international organizations**.

Legal framework

Two major Laws regulate the functioning of the scientific and research activity in the country:

- **The Law on Scientific ad Research Activity and**
- **The Law on Higher Education**

While the former regulates the principles of establishment and functioning of higher educational institutions and outlines their primary roles, the latter defines the scientific and research activity, provides outline of the institutions carrying scientific and research work and the structures responsible for creating the national research policy.

Additionally, the national research priorities are being determined by the MoES every four years through carrying a **National Program for Research Activity**.

Financing research

The research activities have the possibility of being funded by different sources. On a national level, the state budget predicts annual funds for research activities, which can be awarded to the private, mixed and public scientific institutions. Besides that, various donor organizations (international, bilateral, multilateral, domestic etc.) also regularly support applicative and developmental social science research projects.

Chapter 1: General Institutional and Policy Framework – an Overview of the Elements of the National System and Research Related Policies

In this chapter, a review of the central level bodies responsible for creating the research policy will be provided, followed by a summary of the relevant policies in this area. In addition, the financing options for social science research will be presented, along with the possibilities for international cooperation available to Macedonia.

1.1. State-level bodies

1.1.1. Ministry of Education and Science - Science Sector

The main actor on national level responsible for the science policy in the country is the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES). Within the MoES there is a **Science Sector** with 50 employees and a sector manager. The Sector is subdivided into three departments: for Technological Development and Technical Culture, for Scientific and Research Projects and for International Cooperation. These departments are supporting and financing different types of projects proposed by the scientific organizations and the industry in cooperation with the scientific organizations. They also provide scholarships for master and doctoral studies, for participation on international conferences and workshops, financial support for publishing scientific books and magazines, enable international cooperation in the scientific activities, provide scientific infrastructure etc.

1.1.2. Council for Scientific and Research Activity

The Council is being formed by the Minister of Education and Science in order to serve as his consultancy body. It consists of six members, one from each scientific discipline, with a mandate of four years. The Council carries decisions on the development of the scientific and research activity, including the annual programs of the scientific institutions, the budget for research activity, the evaluation of the research activity, the development and maintenance of the research data-bases, the international cooperation etc.²

1.1.3. National Committee for Development of Research

The Committee consists of nine members, including the Minister of Education and Science, the president of MANU, the president of the Council for Research and six members from different scientific disciplines, appointed by the Government on a four-year mandate. It is involved in carrying decisions on the priority research areas, the policies in the area of research, following the development of the country on a scientific basis etc.³

1.1.4. Ethical Board

The Ethical Board is an expert body for assistance in the implementation of the scientific and research policies. Its members are proposed by the Interuniversity Conference and MANU and appointed by

² Law on Research Activity, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08; Art. 11

³ *Ibid.*, Art. 9

the Government on a four-year mandate, with a mission to follow and assess the respect of ethical values and principles in the scientific and research activity.⁴

1.2. National Policies on Research Activity

1.2.1. Law on Scientific and Research Activity

The functioning of the scientific sector is regulated with the 'Law on Scientific and Research Activity'. The current Law has been carried in March 2008 and amended in August, 2008. It defines the scientific and research activity as primarily based on the principles of: freedom and autonomy of the scientific work, relatedness with the educational system, ethics of the scientific workers, diversity of the scientific opinions, methods, theories etc.

The Law outlines the **research activities of public interest for the state** as those that: contribute to the development of the scientific thought; contribute to the transfer of the world's knowledge, technologies and skills; represent a precondition for the general development of Macedonia; belong to the area of historical and cultural identity of the Macedonian people, as well as the citizens living in its borders and being members of other ethnic communities; offer a presentation of the achieved scientific results in the world and in the Republic of Macedonia and are from the sphere of defence and security.⁵

The Law stipulates different ways in which a scientific and research activity can be performed, i.e. by establishing a public, private or mixed scientific institution or by a physical subject (individual researcher). The means for **financing the scientific and research activities** are primarily provided by the state Budget, but also from other sources, such as international programs and funds, the LSG (Local Self-Government) Units, legal subjects, etc.⁶. The financial support from the state is awarded by a means of public competition⁷.

The issue of quality is addressed in the Law through promotion of self-evaluation of the scientific institution (on the basis of their Statute and international evaluation standards) and external evaluation. In addition, the latest amendments include a financial stimulation (20% salary increase) for researchers that have published their work in journals with impact factor⁸, with the aim to encourage quality research.

⁴ Law on Research Activity, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08; Art. 14

⁵ *Ibid.*, Art.5

⁶ *Ibid.*, Art 49

⁷ *Ibid.*, Art 50

⁸ Law on Amending the Law on Scientific and Research Activity, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 103/08, Art. 3

1.2.2. Law on Higher Education

The work of the Universities is regulated by the **Law on Higher Education**⁹. According to this Law, 'performing fundamental, developmental and applied research' is defined as one of the main roles of the Universities¹⁰. In accordance to the fundamental principle of autonomy of the higher educational institutions, the members of the academic community are guaranteed intellectual freedom during the research and educational process¹¹. The autonomy also implies freedom to establish funds and other organisations from the incomes, donations and other sources of finances for the purpose of conducting the scientific, research and educational activities.¹²

The bodies most involved in creating the scientific and research strategy of the Universities are The Educational and Scientific Council¹³ and the Agency for Evaluation.¹⁴ While the former carries a program for scientific and research activities, suggests measures to the Deanery and makes decisions on advancing the educational, scientific and applied work¹⁵; the latter follows and assesses the quality of the activities every five years and proposes continuation or taking away of the accreditation to the Board of Accreditation.¹⁶

1.2.3. National Program for Scientific and Research Activity

The scientific and research activity of public interest is supported by providing financial means for realizing the activities planned with the **Program for Scientific and Research Activity**. The Program is typically carried for a four-year period by the Macedonian Parliament, on a suggestion of the Macedonian Government (after a prior consultation with the National Committee, MANU and the Interuniversity Conference). The document defines the basic aims, content and range of tasks to be performed in the area of scientific activities; the methods for coordinating, monitoring and financing the activities; the relatedness with the economy and the institutional network etc.¹⁷

⁹ Law on Higher Education, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08, 2008

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Art. 3

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Art.11

¹² *Ibid.*, Art.13

¹³ The members of the Council are included by the individual faculties / departments and include University professors and docents. The student body also elects its representatives in the Council. The number of representatives from each unit is determined by the University Statute.

¹⁴ The Evaluation Agency has nine members who are academics proposed by the Inter-University Conference and elected for a four-year term by a secret ballot. They represent proportionally the number of faculties and scientific institutions involved in higher education at all levels. Once every five years, it assesses the quality of higher education institutions; it gives recommendations for improvement and publishes its reports on assessment results.

¹⁵ Law on Higher Education, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08, 2008, Art. 63

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Art. 75

¹⁷ National Programme for Scientific and Research Activity, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 27/08, 2008

The 2008 Program gives a clear priority to the technical and technological disciplines, accompanied by a special program for technical and technological development. The social sciences are only briefly mentioned, and the focus is on the international promotion of the country through topics such as: folklore, archaeology, history and language; while other social science topics appear to be neglected.

1.2.4. Bologna Declaration

Additional regulations that influence the development of the higher education institutions come from the **provisions of the Bologna Declaration** that Macedonia has signed in 2003. The Bologna Declaration calls for the harmonization of Higher Education qualification systems in Europe, mutual recognition of degree qualifications and increased staff and student mobility within Europe. It includes provisions relating to introduction of European Credit Transfer System, student mobility, research activities, Diploma Supplements, quality assurance and monitoring etc. The aim is to finalize the higher education reform by 2010.

1.3. Funding research

The means for financing the scientific and research activity are provided by the state Budget, according to the goals and priorities determined within the National Program for Research, as well as the programs of public interest¹⁸. The MoES finances the annual programs of the scientific institutions through a public competition, on the basis of the following criteria: realisation of programs of national interest, deepening the range and quality of scientific knowledge, efficient use of the scientific results in resolving societal problems, international affirmation of the scientific work etc.¹⁹.

Each year, the MoES opens a public competition for financial means for research projects from different disciplines. The main criteria for project applicants are that they must be at least three persons on the team, one of which holds a PhD and two (or more) with a status of researchers or research associates. They all need to be registered in the MoESs' registry and the leader of the research team is required to have published at least four peer-reviewed papers during the past three years, two of which must have been published in international magazines.²⁰

During the course of the last several years, the funds allocated for research activities have been increasing. Specifically, from 80 mill MKD (about 1,3 mill EUR) allocated for research in 2004 and 103 mill MKD (about 1,7 mill EUR) in 2005, they have risen to 180 mill MKD (3 mil EUR) in 2008 (see Table 1, Graph 1).

¹⁸ Law on Research Activity, Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia, 46/08, 2008; Article 49

¹⁹ *Ibid.*; Article 51

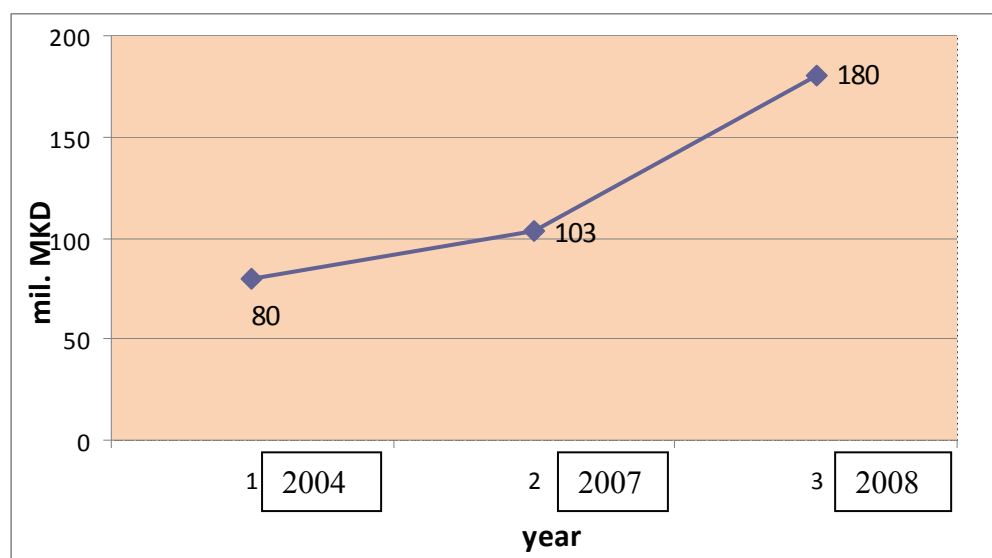
²⁰ *Ibid.*; Article 51

Table 1: Expenditures predicted for research activities and research institutions for 2008 (in thousand denars)

	Expenditures from the Basic Budget for 2008	Expenditures for self-financing activities	Expenditures -loans	Expenditures -donations	Total expenditures for 2008
Research-education	358,800	384,000	0	55,500	798,300
Scientific and research work	180,100	0	0	0	180,100 ²¹
Scientific institutes	204,700	384,000	0	55,500	644,200

Source: Budget for 2008 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.190/2007)

Despite this rise, if judging by the National Programme for Research, the bulk of the funds are expected to be allocated for projects in technical and technological sciences.

Graph 1. State budget for research activities

Apart from the national funding possibilities, various types of international funding are also available to researchers. Part of these options will be presented in the following section referring to international cooperation, and part in the section dedicated to donor organizations.

1.4. International cooperation

The Ministry of Education and Science has established bilateral and multilateral cooperation with various countries. In the frames of bilateral collaboration, the Macedonian MoES has signed

²¹ During the preparation of this report, the Macedonian Government has re-allocated 26 million denars from the budget of the research institutes to scientific and research work.

agreements with numerous countries, with the most productive cooperation established with Slovenia and Japan.

As regards to the multilateral cooperation, the MoES has established collaboration in the frames of the 'Framework Program for Research and Development'.²² This is perhaps one of the most fruitful areas of scientific cooperation, having in mind that under the Sixth Framework Programme (2006), national researchers from Macedonia were involved as third country participants on a project basis and in total obtained about 2.7 million EUR.

In addition, the COST (Collaboration on Science and Technology) Programme is being realized through activities in 16 scientific areas through coordination of the national research, sharing the results and enabling each country to focus the problem in accordance to their specific needs.²³

The Ministry is also a member of the SEE ERA NET network that connects the SEE countries with the European research area (ERA) through coordination and support of research projects. Its aim is to strengthen the cross-regional cooperation of the EU and Western Balkan countries.²⁴

While some of these programs offer possibilities for social science researchers to apply with projects, the representation of the social science disciplines has been rather low so far. Specifically, in the frames of the 6th Framework Programme (2006), out of 42 projects from Macedonia, only 3 have been from the area of social sciences, while in 2007, out of 18 projects, only 1 was from social sciences.

Besides the institutionally-implemented projects, individual researchers are also being independently involved in international research projects, which they are very often implementing outside of their resident institutions.

Chapter 2: Research in Social Sciences – Analysis of the Functioning of the Research Actors/Institutions

This chapter will provide a review of the most relevant research institutions, focusing on their human resources, areas of expertise, major accomplishments and the problems they encounter in their research work (additional data are provided in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3). Data was collected on the basis of the questionnaires answered, interviews conducted with the institutions' representatives, as well as a desk-review of existing documents. The institutions are grouped according to their type (i.e. legal registration) to enable comparisons.

²² see more at: www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7

²³ see more at: www.cost.esf.org

²⁴ see more at: www.see-era.net

2.1. Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences

The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts was established in 1967 as the highest scientific, scholarly and artistic institution in the country with the aim to monitor and stimulate the sciences and arts. Its objectives are to survey the cultural heritage and natural resources, assist in the planning of a national policy regarding the sciences and arts, stimulate, co-ordinate, organize and conduct scientific and scholarly research and to promote artistic achievement, especially where particularly relevant to the Republic of Macedonia.

The social science research is primarily organised within the Centre for Strategic Research and the Department of Social Sciences, which have so far conducted numerous basic research projects referring to issues considered to be of national interest. However, although trying to maintain its balance between the research activities in all scientific disciplines, the Academy is much more renowned for its achievements in the area of arts, humanities and natural sciences, then in the area of social sciences. The social science research projects are mainly theoretical by nature and focused on economic, legal and historical issues, as a result of the professional expertise of the academics²⁵.

2.2. Universities

Two Universities have been analysed for the purpose of this report, the oldest and largest state University – **Ss. Cyril and Methodius (UKIM)** (established in 1949), and the first accredited private **University - South East Europe (SEEU)** (established in 2001). Their principle of functioning will be assessed in parallel, focusing on the both institutions' strengths and weaknesses.

The initial difference between the both institutions is their **level of integration** (i.e. centralization), which significantly affects all aspects of functioning. While UKIM is a non-integrated university²⁶, with each of the faculties (and departments within the faculties) having a rather big autonomy from the central body – the Rectorate, SEEU's faculties 'orbit' around a central body (Rectorate, with separate sectors).

This structural difference is particularly evident when reviewing the research activities of the two universities. Since SEEU has a central Research Centre and a Pro-rector for Research, it is quite simple to get an insight into the research projects conducted and those in the process of conducting at all faculties. On the other hand, the absence of a centralized body for administering research projects at UKIM, makes it difficult to gain an insight into what has been done in terms of research projects on the level of University. Instead, the data have to be collected from each faculty and department within the faculty separately, and often from each staff member individually.

²⁵ Out of 8 Academics - members of the Department of Social Sciences, 4 hold a degree in economy, 2 in history and 2 in law.

²⁶ Aiming to finalize the legal requirements for transforming into an integrated University by the end of 2008.

The principle of 'integrated university' also implies the existence of a central funding for research. This enables for each scientific discipline to be equally represented in the budget for research. In the case of SEEU, 6% of the University's budget is allocated for research and the funds are being utilised for conducting at least three research projects by each of the faculties' research centres. Besides that, the Research Centre additionally applies for funding from other donors.

In contrast, the funding for research at UKIM is much more complicated, since basically each faculty and department is self-reliant when it comes to funding. Given that there is no annual Strategy for research and the funds available to the University are limited, the only option is cooperation on internationally funded projects. However, the international cooperation in terms of joint research projects is not fully utilized, partially because of lack of information and partially because of insufficient time to dedicate to research activities. This does not mean that the UKIM's faculties are not involved in international projects, but the projects ongoing for the past several years mostly refer to adjusting the curricula and the teaching methods in accordance to the provisions of the Bologna Declaration.

Another option for funding, often utilised by **individual researchers** is to **independently participate in projects** as experts in a certain field. While this being their statutory right, it eventually causes for low coordination among researchers and implementation of donor-driven projects, which are usually not related to the departments' curricula and do not result in their institutional strengthening. To illustrate, the UKIM's self-assessment has indicated an especially low inclusion of the study programs in the research projects, especially evident in the social sciences (4.2% compared to 17% in the technical and natural sciences)

2.2.1. University Research Centres

Out of the social science faculties at UKIM, only the **Faculty of Economy** has a **Centre for Professional Development and Research**, where the research and related activities are primarily organized. The Faculty of Economy has the most productive international cooperation and typically relies on international funding for research projects. At the same time, the Centre gains additional income from consulting activity, which is being performed for the needs of enterprises and their management.

The **Faculty of Philosophy** has also established a so-called **Surveying Centre** ten years ago with the aim to intensify the interdisciplinary research work of its institutes. However, the centre is not functioning mainly because it does not have staff specifically appointed to work in the centre. Hence, because of the difficulties of coordinating for the purpose of conducting joint (interdisciplinary) projects, researchers are mainly focused on conducting research within their own departments. In addition, many possibilities for international research projects are not utilised since the faculty staff typically acts 'reactively' instead of 'proactively' (i.e. wait to be invited) when it comes to applying and participating in research projects.

The **Institute for Social Work** has proven to be the most active member of the Faculty of Philosophy when it comes to collaborating with the state institutions and international organizations, mainly focused on implementing applicative research. About 10 years ago, a research centre was formed under the name – **National Centre for Continuous Social Development**, under the patronage of UNDP. Although the work of the centre is currently stagnating, the professors at the Institute have been active in many research projects, either as individual experts or as a team formed by Institutes' members. Currently, the aim of the institute is to deepen its research activities by engaging more in theoretical (basic) research and slowly leaving the applicative research to other institutes working in the field of social policy. They feel that as a scientific institution they need to work on expanding the theoretical base of the subject. In addition, the Institute intends to establish stronger links with businesses and individual philanthropists in order to provide additional funding sources for their projects.

The **Law Faculty 'Justinijanus Prima'** also does not have a functional research centre, although the faculty staff participates in research projects, mainly as individual experts from a specific field. Hence, besides the data on international projects, with the faculty as a signatory, it is quite difficult to gain insight into the range and type of research work being performed.

2.2.2. Identified problems

Apart from the lack of integration of the UKIM's faculties and departments being identified as a potential set-back for more intensive research activity, additional problems pointed out by some of the surveyed University representatives were:

- Lack of finances for doing research, especially from the state funds;
- Unbalanced funds provided for research projects in the social and natural/technical sciences by the Ministry of Science;
- Complicated project application procedures for funding from the Ministry of Education and Science and disloyal competition (i.e. political factors that influence the project approval and receiving funds);
- The Ministry of Education and Science's criteria for project application, which are very strict and very difficult to be satisfied even by the most distinguished scientists;
- Small number of projects open for application by institutions that do not belong to EU member countries.

Bearing in mind the above-stated, it can be concluded that the social science faculties at UKIM, although relatively well equipped in terms of human resources and free in terms of autonomy of scientific thought, are not sufficiently involved in research activities. The lack of funds is a major obstacle, but apparently the opportunities coming from the international cooperation are not sufficiently utilized on an institutional level, as well. Specifically, in the period 2002-2006, a total of 1321 university staff members from the field of social sciences have participated in research projects

(677 in domestic and 644 in international).²⁷ In contrast, from the field of natural and technical sciences, a total of 4077 staff members have been involved in research projects. Regardless of the UKIM's assessment that the inclusion in research projects is on a satisfactory level, they assert that the trend of autonomous research projects, unrelated to the curricula should be reduced and a new system of inclusion of UKIM in creating the project policy should be established.²⁸

Improvements in the functioning of UKIM are expected in the course of the following years, since with the amended Law on Higher Education; provisions for facilitating the integration of UKIM have been stipulated. The legal provisions for this process are aimed to be completed by 2008, and administrative measures have been taken to achieve this. Specifically, a new Statute and regulations have been carried in order to pave the way to the transformation. Still, this process appears to be rather challenging for the University units, having in mind that they need to 'give up' part of their autonomy. This low flexibility of the separate units obstructs the establishment of a central research body. So far, only a Pro-rector for science has been assigned with the role of disseminating information on the research opportunities.

Here, it is worth mentioning that although a highly decentralized organizational structure does not automatically imply inefficient functioning of the University (as the examples of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge demonstrate), 'given the latter institutions' generous state funding, especially for research, and their healthy endowments, the level of resources available to them is obviously quite different than that which can be mobilized by institutions in SEE'.²⁹

2.2.3. Publications and professional journals

Only a small number of faculty institutes/departments in the frames of UKIM issue regular **publications (journals, magazines)**. Thus, researchers from certain social science areas have limited opportunities for publishing their research papers. Specifically, three of the Institutes in the frames of the **Faculty of Philosophy** publish **professional journals**, typically in cooperation with another partner organisation, while the **Economic and Law faculties** individually publish **annual reviews** of papers.

The Institute for Social Work and Social Policy has recently begun publishing a biannual magazine called '**Social Policy**' with the financial support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

The Institute for Defense and Peace Studies, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, twice a year since 2002 publish a Journal called '**Contemporary Macedonian Defence**'.

²⁷ Self-evaluation Report of UKIM (2002/3-2005/6), University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, 2008

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *From Fragmentation to Cooperation: Tertiary Education, Research and Development in South Eastern Europe*; Linden, T., Arnhold, N., Vasiliev, K., The World Bank, 2008, p.15

The Institute for Sociology collaborates with the Association of Sociologists on the magazine **'Sociological Review'**

The SEEU Research Office publishes the bi-annual scientific review titled **'SEEU Review'**, where papers in relevant fields of research from both domestic and external researchers are included.

Other faculties and institutes did not mention publishing regular professional journals from their discipline, although the publishing activity is represented within all University units. The number of publications issued during the period 2002-2006 is presented in Table 2. Evidently, the publishing activity has been the most productive for the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Economy.

Table 2: Number of publications written by the academic staff (2002-2006)³⁰

Faculty	books	scripts	other
Faculty of Economy	95	0	2
Faculty of Law	17	3	13
Faculty of Philosophy	308	40	115
Faculty of Pedagogy – Bitola	36	0	5
Faculty of Pedagogy-Shtip	14	0	0
Total	470	43	135

2.2.4 Funding

The main funding of UKIM comes from the state budget, i.e. the Ministry of Education and Science. The Macedonian Assembly, on a proposal by the Government carries a four-year Programme for Higher Education Activity. In order to realise the activities predicted in the Programme, the MoES forms a Council for Higher Education which determines the financial means to be awarded to each higher education institution, on the basis of their annual financial plans.³¹ The Council can also propose financial assistance for the work of the private higher educational institutions if determined that the state can satisfy certain needs through their programmes.

The problem of insufficient state funds allocated to the public universities was already accentuated, especially in terms of low funding for research projects. This accompanied with the fact that the criteria for distribution of funds are rather arbitrary and made known to the University in the middle of the year, restricts the Universities and the faculties to plan their projects according to a previously developed strategy.

In order to overcome these difficulties, many of the University units have established partnerships with state and other institutions in order to enable professional cooperation, but also a financial support. For example, the Institute for Social Work and Social Policy and the Institute for Peace and Defence Studies have a rather successful cooperation with the related Ministries and are constantly being involved in the preparation of national policies in the areas of their expertise. Actually, the main

³⁰ Self-evaluation Report of UKIM (2002/3-2005/6), University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, 2008

³¹ The Law on Higher Education, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08, Art. 81

domestic donor of the Institute for Social Work is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, with which the Institute has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. This binds them to participate in the creation of strategic programs of the Ministry, but also to receive financial means for publications. Other institutes and departments did not mention having signed any document of this kind.

In the case of SEEU, their primary funding is provided through the students' scholarships, but additional funds are provided by numerous domestic and international organisations.

The major domestic donors, for both UKIM and SEEU include FOSIM, different private and public companies and state institutions. Other funds come from foreign donors, such as: UN institutions, EC, OSCE, USAID, FES, foreign governments and international programs (TEMPUS, Copernicus, PHARE, Framework Program etc.).

From the above said it is evident that the Universities have not yet established sustainable relationship with the business sector in the area of research. Although this type of cooperation should be controlled in order to prevent interference in the University's autonomy, it can eventually yield additional income for research activities and contribute towards building the capacity of institutions.

2.3. Scientific/Research Institutes

Three Research Institutes will be presented in this section, two of which function within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius (**Institute of Sociological, Political and Judicial Research** and **Economic Institute**) and one independent Institute – **Euro-Balkan**. The two national institutes have a long tradition of social science research (1965 and 1952 respectively), while Euro-Balkan has been established as a research institute two years ago, although functioning as a research organisation since 1999.

The three institutes have specific fields of expertise. The Economic Institute is primarily involved in macroeconomic and microeconomic research, as well as assessment of public companies. The ISPJR's staff is proficient in research on human resource development, ethnic relations, communications, criminology, refugees and forced migration, human rights and public policy. The research activity at the Euro-Balkan Institute is organised within the following sectors: Gender Studies, Knowledge Based, Development, Contemporary Political Thought, Division for Applied Policy Research; with the Department of Gender Studies being the most active and productive sector.

The Institutes' expertise is also used for organizing post-graduate studies in specific fields, which enables educating young researchers, but also represents an additional source of income for the institutes. The national institutes sometimes utilise the funds gathered from the educational activities to financially support the research activities. However, the impression is that the educational activities are often treated as a primary activity and put in front of the research activities, even though the latter being the institutes' main purpose. Attempts are made to connect the research projects and the study

programs, and the UKIM's self-evaluation report claims that the research institutes have managed to establish this connection by 31% (considering all scientific disciplines jointly).

Even though the development of the human resources in the national institutes has been limited with the restriction from the Government for hiring new staff, the existing human resources at the national institutes appear not to be utilised sufficiently either, especially when it comes to conducting innovative social science research of strategic interest for the state as well as research aimed at theoretical development of certain social science disciplines. In addition, since the state does not use incentives to promote these types of research, the work of the Institutes primarily subsists on a market (i.e. consultancy) basis.

The Economic Institute appears to be more successful in overcoming the financial burdens and transforming itself as one of the major consultancy institution for economic issues. In addition, the representativeness of their experts at conferences, trainings etc. as invited speakers has been far greater compared to the rest of the national institutes (not limited to the ones from the social sciences). Specifically, out of 267 participations at conferences in the period 2002-2006 by the research institutes, 68% have been by Economic Institutes' members³².

The finances were detected as one of the major setbacks for increased scientific work. In general, the funds that the national institutes receive from the state budget typically cover the staff expenses, with not much being left for their actual scientific work. As an implication, there are insufficient funds for employing young researchers in order to enhance the scientific and research activity of the Institutes, accompanied by an absence of investment in the development of the existing human resources (especially reflected in the lack of investment in acquisition of contemporary research skills). On the top of that, the state budget for the national institutes has been cut with the 2008 budget rebalance, while the budget for research activities (on a national level) has been increased.

Having these problems in mind, the fact that many researchers, contracted as experts, work on research projects outside of their resident institution comes as no surprise. This causes a situation where the institutes are not serving their primary goal of further developing the scientific disciplines and acting as primary consultants for the national policies. Instead, their work is guided by the needs of the market and the programs of the international donors. In order to overcome this, the recommendations of the External evaluation of UKIM predicts for the national institutes to be integrated within the frames of other UKIM's departments.

In contrast to the numerous problems stated by the national institutes, the representatives of the Euro-Balkan institute did not report having any major setbacks in performing their research and related activities.

³² Self-evaluation Report of UKIM (2002/3-2005/6), University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, 2008

2.3.1. Professional journals

Apart from regularly issuing publications for presenting their research work, all presented institutes publish annual journals. The Economic Institute since 2004 publishes a journal entitled '**Economic Development**', while the Institute for Sociological, Political and Judicial Research publishes '**Annual Report**'. Since 2001, The Research Center for Gender Studies of Euro-Balkan publishes the international journal "**IDENTITIES**" – professional journal for politics, gender and culture.

2.3.2. Funding

The national institutes are primarily funded from the state budget. However, because of the previously mentioned difficulties resulting in inability to finance the research activities from the state-allocated funds; they also rely on external funds. The leading donors are: UNDP, USAID, The World Bank, UNHCR, TEMPUS, FOSIM, FES etc.

The Institute Euro-Balkan is primarily funded by donor organisations, among which: FOSIM, BTĐ, UNDP, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, Next Page Foundation, OECD, European Commission-Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG, OSCE, OSI ZUG via LGI, European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Freedom House etc.

2.4. Think-tanks (Policy Research Organisations)

Think-tanks are a relatively new form of research organizations in Macedonia. Most of them have been established in the course of the 2000's, representing a forum for expression of young researchers (many of which with foreign degrees). This rising trend of establishing policy research organisations is very encouraging for the future development of the applicative and developmental social science research, as well as the prevention of the brain drain of social science researchers.

Most think-tanks have already established themselves as expert organisations in certain fields and are being regularly invited by donors to participate on specific projects. While EPRI (Economic Policy Research Institute) and CEA (Center for Economic Analysis) are recognised for their expertise in economic issues, other think-tanks have several fields of expertise. Political issues are covered by CRPM (Center for Research and Policy Making), DSC (Institute for Democracy, Solidarity and Civil Society – 'Societas Civilis'), FORUM – Center for Strategic Research and Documentation), OHRID Institute and Analytica; health policy by Sudiorum and CRPM; education and youth policy by IDSC and CRPM; environmental policy by Studiorum and Analytica; good governance and budget monitoring by CRPM, EPRI and FORUM; etc.

Although the research activities of the think-tanks have been fruitful, the interviewed representatives claimed to face numerous setbacks to their research work. For example, several have stated that their work often appears not to be recognised and accepted by the state institutions. Moreover, there is an **insufficient responsiveness on behalf of the state institutions regarding the need for research and providing data**. Often they do not see the need for such activities in the process of creating

public policies and are rather inflexible in providing support to independent research organisations. To illustrate this, despite the recently adopted 'Law on Open Access to Information of Public Interest', accessing certain information often appears to be quite a challenging endeavour. Moreover, there is a lack of transparency of public information in the country. Even information such as state budgets and budget balance sheets are not publicly available despite the legal obligation for that. This **fundamental lack of data** influences the quality of the research process and makes it difficult to implement a research project in Macedonia

Seven think-tanks are organized in the **think-tank network**, which represents a forum for sharing experiences, cooperating on joint research projects and influencing national policies. However, since its founding in 2006, the think-tank network has not been functioning up to its potential (e.g. facilitating joint activities and thus gaining a stronger voice in the public), but merely as a means of communicating between the associating organisations. This relatively weak coordination between the organisations results in **duplicating projects**, both by the donor institutions and by the think-tanks independently. Hence, the need for greater interaction between the donor communities and the researchers in the process of deciding on the priorities was especially accentuated by the think-tank representatives.

Finally, while some of the surveyed organizations expressed that in general they manage to implement project they consider to be relevant at the moment, half of them stated their concern that the majority of **projects** tend to be **donor-driven**, thus restricting them to a certain extent to follow an independent program of research since they need to adapt to the donors' needs.

2.4.1. Publications and journals

The majority of think-tanks tend to publish all research paper on-line, on their web-pages and whenever possible as a hard copy, which they distribute to all relevant stakeholders.

Several of them publish journals. Analytica issues the electronic journal '**Analytical**'; CEA publishes the **Journal of Economics (electronic and printed version)**, as well as the **Quarterly Economic Monitor** and the **Monthly Economic Monitor**; IDSCS, in cooperation with KAS, issues the quarterly thematic magazine on political and social issues entitled '**Politicka Misl**' (**Political Thought**); the OHRID Institute publishes the quarterly **Global magazine**; and Studiorum the semi-annual magazine for European issues '**Evrodijalog**' (**Eurodialogue**).

2.4.2. Funding

Although some of the think-tanks have regular donors which fund their activities, still the main method of getting funds for projects is by applying to a public announcement (call for proposals).

The main donors include: The World Bank, UNDP, OSCE, EC, USAID, BTM, NORMAK, and FOSIM.

2.5. Donor Organisations

The donor community is well represented in Macedonia mostly through international organisations. They usually function as partner organisations of the local research institutions and collaborate with them on developing and implementing research activities. The research projects financed are rarely a purpose on their own, but typically represent a part of a wider project that the donor organisation has interest in pursuing. Since financing social science research per se is often not their main aim, many of the social science research projects are being used primarily by the donors (or are being shared only with the Government) and the findings remain unknown for the wider public.

Eight of the most active donor organisations working in Macedonia have been assessed for the purpose of this report: World Bank, OSCE (The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and UN agencies (United Nations); European Commission, USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and FOSIM (Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia); and German based Fridrich Ebert (FES) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

Though supporting various research projects, certain topics are considered as priority by each entity. FOSIM supports research related to promoting good governance (in all aspects of the society) with the aim of influencing national policies; the EC supports activities aimed at promotion of the EU policies, ideas and values; FES and KAS are concerned with issues of socio-political dialogue, conflict prevention, Euro-Atlantic integration, etc.; USAID and the World Bank primarily support economically-oriented research; OSCE is focused on projects promoting the rule of law; and the UN supports a wide array of research depending on the orientation of its constituent organisations (UNDP - social inclusion, decentralisation, human rights; UNICEF- children's right policies; IOM-migration; UNCHR - refugees; UNIFEM - gender policies; etc.)

Chapter 3: Research in Social Sciences - Analysis of the Social Science Research Activities

This chapter will focus on the status of the social science research in Macedonia. Specifically, it will highlight the state policies related to social science research, as well as present statistical data on the representation of social science research within the country and outside the country.

3.1. Status of the social science research activities in the national policies

A brief look at the national statistics on research indicates that the status of social science research projects has been very unfavourable compared to other scientific disciplines (see Table 3). According to the State Statistical Office data, in 2006, there have been 341 ongoing research projects, only 11 (3.2%) of which were from the area of social sciences. Half of them (6) were developmental, 2 were basic and 3 applied. Compared to the projects conducted in other sectors (e.g. 104 in engineering, 91 in medical sciences, 93 in humanities), this number is rather concerning.

Table 3. Ongoing research projects (2006)³³

Sector	Total	Type of research			Subscriber				
		basic	applied	developmental	Business enterprises	MoES	Min. of Agriculture	Other Ministries	other
Total	314	144	138	59	71	118	6	51	96
Natural sciences	7	7						7	
Engineering	104	52	30	22	21	64			19
Medical sciences	91	8	55	28	49	15		10	17
Agricultural sciences	35	13	19	3		21	5		9
Social sciences	11	2	3	6	1	4	1	1	4
Humanities	93	62	31			14		33	46
Business	64		52	12		64			
Government	150	84	54	12	1	37	57	50	57
Higher education	127	60	32	35	6	81	38	1	38

Source: SSO, Statistical Yearbook, 2007

Moreover, an interesting trend can be noticed if we have in mind the number of potential social science researchers (i.e. persons with MAs and PhDs in social sciences). While their number is on a constant rise and twice higher than the number of individuals with such degrees from the other

³³ The following are responsible for reporting research and development activities: public and private universities, other research institutions and institutes, development units in composition of business subjects in the area of economy (research activities) and business subjects in the area of economy, unregistered for research (development activities).

scientific fields (see Table 4), **the number of research projects conducted in the social science sector is among the lowest.** At first glance, this appears as a paradox. However, this situation comes as no surprise bearing in mind that the increasing human resources cannot be utilised if the surrounding remains the same. And the surrounding is characterised with: limited means for research, very few possibilities for employing young researchers, national focus on promotional topics, such as folklore, language, identity etc.

Table 4. Doctors, Masters and Specialists of Sciences according to the scientific area (2004-2006)

Sciences	Doctors			Masters			Specialists		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Total	67	92	85	106	189	184	4	9	19
Natural	9	11	8	23	21	21		4	7
Technical and technological	17	11	10	33	24	42	1		
Medical	19	14	10	6	24	6	3	3	4
Biotechnical	2	6	8	6	7			1	
Social	18	26	28	24	83	74		1	8
Humanities	2	24	21	14	30	41			

Source: SSO, Statistical Yearbook, 2007

Hence, while there are human resources available (especially young potential researchers), their competencies are not reflected in the development of the institutional capacities. Very few are given the possibility to work as researchers, and the ones that do work as researchers often perform research outside of their resident organizations/institutions. In this regard, the 2007 EC Progress Report on Macedonia concludes that the development of research needs to be strengthened by improving the institutional capacities and overcoming the budgetary constraints for research activities.

The reasons for the unfavourable situation with the social science research are mainly systemic, and come from the low positioning of the social science research on the national research agenda. Specifically, on a national level, since the year 2000, five legal documents (laws and regulatives) have been carried to direct the stimulation of technical and technological sciences; while no such documents relating to social sciences have been carried. Respectively, the situation with financing social science research has also been poor. In particular, in the period between 2005 and 2008, there has been only one public announcement for funding social science research projects, contrasted with the public announcements for projects from technical and technological sciences, which have been opened each year.

Moreover, in the **National Program for Research** carried in 2008³⁴, a strong emphasis has been placed on the technical and technological disciplines, accompanied with a concrete programme for technological development. In contrast, the humanistic and social sciences are only briefly mentioned,

³⁴ See: Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia No. 27 from 25.02.2008

and the focus is placed on the areas contributing to the international promotion of the country, such as folklore, archaeology, history and language.

Apart from the absence of a national strategy for promotion of social sciences, the fact that the number of social science research projects on a national level is low is partially related to the criteria according to which the MoES selects the researchers to be awarded funding within the Annual Program for Research. Specifically, the criteria which state that the lead researcher should have published at least 4 scientific papers, 2 of which in international peer-reviewed journals for many of the interviewed researchers are very difficult to be achieved. This is mostly due to the insufficient opportunities for conducting social science research and the difficulties of publishing the research in international peer-reviewed journals.

In addition, the researchers interviewed for the purpose of this analysis generally expressed their opinion that the nepotism of the Council's members (primarily influenced by the political affiliation) is an additional discouraging factor when it comes to applying for financial assistance. Specifically, since the body that decides on the research priorities and evaluates the project applications - The Council for Scientific and Research Activity is consisted of members (one from each scientific field) assigned by the Minister of Education and Science, there is a high risk that they will be politically assigned and politically motivated in their assessment. At the same time, bearing in mind that The Ethical Board formed for the purpose of 'monitoring' the ethical principles during public competitions is composed of members appointed by the Government, their 'objectivity' has also be put in question by the interviewed representatives of social science research institutions.

3.2. Quality of research

While the Law on Scientific and Research Activity promotes the issue of quality research, the concept of what constitutes 'quality research' has not been fully developed. For example, the latest revision of the Law stipulates career advancement to be partially conditioned with publishing papers in journals with impact factor. However, since this practice is still rather rare when it comes to Macedonian researchers from the area of social sciences, **for the beginning, alternative standards may need to be employed (e.g. publications in domestic peer-reviewed journals, quotations of the study by other authors, presentations on international conferences, impact on societal change etc.).** These gradually raised quality standards would hopefully encourage researchers to intensify their efforts to publish in international journals, and hence raise the social science research at the level of natural science research in Macedonia.

Additionally, the national pledge for promoting high quality research has been demonstrated by establishing so-called **Centres of Excellence**³⁵. They are selected on every four years on the basis

³⁵ Currently there are five 'Centres of Excellence' identified in Macedonia: Institute of Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Research Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Nephrology Clinic at the Faculty of Medicine; Research Centre for

of their scientific results and influence both on domestic and international level. They are recognised not only in the country, but also internationally due to their publications, citations and international cooperation. Currently, there are five centres of excellence, all from the field of natural and technical sciences. **None of the social science departments/institutes has yet attained the standards required to be accepted as a centre of excellence.**

3.3. Representation of the social science research in the international on-line social science journals

The low representation of the social science research within the country is also reflected in the international representation of the Macedonian social science research. For this purpose, one indicator was assessed – representation of Macedonian social science journals on the international on-line social science networks.

The assessment indicated that only three social science research publications can be downloaded from the CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library³⁶: ‘Balkananalysis.com’; ‘Economic Development’, issued by the Economics Institute at UKIM and ‘Identities’, of the Euro-Balkan Institute. In comparison with the neighbouring countries, this is an insignificant number considering the 12 social science journals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17 from Serbia and 13 from Bulgaria.

As for the ‘Knowledge Base Social Sciences: Eastern Europe’³⁷, only four Macedonian social science journals can be found: ‘EthnoAnthropoZoom’, published by the Department of Ethnology, UKIM; ‘Identities’, published by Euro-Balkan Institute; ‘Modern Macedonian Defence’ from the Ministry of Defence and ‘New Balkan Politics’, published with support of the Ministry of Culture – Macedonia; OSI – Macedonia, Office of Public Affairs - Skopje (USA) and Freudenberg Stiftung (Germany). This puts Macedonia in the group with Albania (3 journals) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 journals), but behind Bulgaria (10 journals) and Croatia (32 journals).

The data presented indicate that **Macedonia needs to intensify the activities related to social science research projects and improve its visibility on the international level.**

3.4. Promoted research topics

The research topics are dependent on the field of expertise of the researchers, but also very much reliant on the topics assessed as **priority issues by the Government and the international donors.** The research projects funded by the MoES, the donor organisations and the international research programmes differ in the issues promoted as important, as well as in the methodological approach.

Energy, Informatics and Material Science at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology.

³⁶ <http://www.ceeol.com>

³⁷ www.cee-socialscience.net

The main types of research funded by **international donors** are applicative in nature, typically predicted to be completed within several months to a year and result in a product which would be instantly applicable. These include: issues related to NATO and EU integration (laws, regulations, economic preconditions, system of defence etc.); social protection and inclusion; assessment of public policies in the areas of: health, economy social policy and labour market; local socio-economic development of municipalities; development of certain industry sector; conflict prevention and management; gender issues etc. In addition, the economic institutions are financed to conduct financial assessment of enterprises. **Topics which are less included are: budget monitoring and issues of transparency; human rights; youth issues; education policy; cultural policy; environmental policy; interethnic relations; in-depth media analyses** etc.

The **Ministry of Education and Science**, on the other hand, tends to **fund projects which are considered to be of national interest**. Since, currently the national interest has been placed on issues of national identity, the topics supported are primarily related to the Macedonian history, language and folklore and tend to have theoretical, rather than applicative value. Moreover, there appears to be a lack of sense on the side of state institutions for the need of social science research, especially when it comes to research aimed at analysing and/or developing a public policy. The national policies clearly indicate that the priorities are strongly placed on the sphere of natural, technical and technological sciences, which although a positive trend, cannot support the development of the country on its own.

Bearing in mind these two contrasting priorities, there appears to be an insufficient support of innovative and interdisciplinary social science research aimed at the theoretical development of certain scientific disciplines. Specifically, Macedonian researchers do not conduct much relevant interdisciplinary research which could be of interest to the wider scientific community. While these types of projects appear to be supported within the Framework Programme (see Appendix 3), not many research institutions from Macedonia have been involved in them. The reason might be in the lack of information on these funding options, the lack of initiative on behalf of the researchers, but also the insufficient support of social science research, since the **issues assessed as priorities for Macedonia within the Research Framework Programme are environment, food and agriculture**.³⁸

³⁸ See: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/20070426_programme_infodays_skopje.pdf

Chapter 4: Recommendations

In this part, recommendations for overcoming the detected setbacks for the development of social science research will be presented for each of the research actors separately.

Recommendations to MoES:

- Developing a Strategy for support and development of social science research
- Increased budget for research to be accompanied with increased budget for the scientific institutions
- Establishing clear quality standards and a practice of continuous evaluation, acting as a motive for professional development and international promotion and eventually forming social science centres of excellence
- Employing young researchers and enabling training in contemporary research methods
- Balancing the state funds for technical/technological and social sciences
- Establishing an easily accessible national data-base of research projects conducted individually and on the level of institutions
- Establishing a system of independent assessment of the work of the national committees for awarding research funding
- Higher transparency in the work of the state bodies responsible for supporting and funding research to overcome negative perceptions

Recommendations to Universities:

- Developing a subject curricula on research methodology in all social science faculties, with a focus on the practical implementation of knowledge and skills
- Greater involvement of the research projects in the study programs, accompanied with the practice of involving students as researchers.
- Support of young researchers through a research fellowship program

a. Recommendations to UKIM:

- Developing a strategy for financing research projects at a central level, leading towards a balance between the natural/technical and social sciences.
- Establishing a functional research center at the level of University.
- Greater involvement of the research projects in the study programs, accompanied with the practice of involving students as researchers.
- Support of young researchers through a research fellowship program
- Greater initiative for initiating and leading interdisciplinary projects
- Increased utilization of the possibilities for international funding of research projects

b. Recommendations to the new universities³⁹:

- Greater support of research projects, initially through cooperation with other research institutions
- Strengthening the international cooperation on research projects

Recommendations to MANU:

- Expansion of the Academy's staff with members from additional social science disciplines
- Diverting research activities to more contemporary topics.

Recommendations to the national scientific institutes:

- Relating research and educational activities, establishing a better balance
- Conducting individual projects under the auspices of the institute to contribute towards institutional strengthening

Recommendations to think-tanks:

- Increased communication between think-tanks and donor organisations with the attempt to influence their 3 years plans at the stage of their formation.
- Signing Memorandums of cooperation between the public institutions and think-tanks in order to:
 - o Exchange data
 - o Implement research more successfully
 - o Implement recommendations more efficiently
- Regular communication and professional cooperation between the think-tanks
- Balancing the donor influence by setting up the research and adjusting it to fit those aspects and questions of special interest for the organisation
- Engaging in more independent fund-raising by the think tanks through gathering and targeting finances and donors

General Recommendations:

- Strategy for connecting with the business sector and individual philanthropists
- Establishing formal and regular communication between the research institutions with the purpose of determining priorities, organizational expertise, possibilities for cooperation etc.
- Establishing peer-reviewed social science journals
- Defining and promoting clear quality standards for social science research

³⁹ This refers to the newly formed Universities, which were not included in the report, since the initial research indicated that they are not active in the field of research.

- Greater promotion of opportunities for international cooperation, especially among the SEE countries
- Vouching for greater support of social sciences within the Research Framework Programme, as well as other international programs for supporting research.

Appendix 1: Social science research actors

Institution	Contact	Educational attainment of staff	Research areas
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU)	Address: Bul. Krste Misirkov, 2, P.O. Box 428 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia Web-site: http://www.manu.edu.mk Tel. ++389(0)2 32 35 400 Fax. ++389(0)2 32 35 500 E-mail: manu@manu.edu.mk Contact person: Natasha Markovska	59 PhDs	Issues, phenomena and relations of a historical, geopolitical, economic, social, cultural and security nature from the aspect of their long- and middle-term significance to the development of the Republic of Macedonia as an independent and sovereign state
UNIVERSITIES, FACULTIES, FACULTY DEPARTMENTS			
Institute of Social Work and Social Policy	Address: St. Petre Georgiev 74/76 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: www.isrsp.mol.com.mk Tel: +389 2 26 22 491 Contact person: Marija Donevska E-mail: maria.donevska@fzf.ukim.edu.mk	9 PhDs, 2 MAs, 2 BAs	Social Work, Social Welfare, Social Policy
Institute of Defence and Peace Studies	Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, R.Macedonia Web-site: http://odb.fzf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: +389 2 3066 232 Contact person: Zoran Nacev E-mail: zoran@fzf.ukim.edu.mk	9 PhDs, 1 MAs, 3 Master students.	defence, peace and security
Institute of Psychology	Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia Web site: http://psi.fzf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: +389 2 3124029 ext.: 104; +389 2	9 PhDs, 3 MAs, 3 Master students	social psychology, educational psychology, psychology of conflict resolution, psychology of creativity, psychology of personality, psychology of gender, clinical psychology

Prepared by the Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in the framework of the Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP), which is run by the University of Fribourg upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

	3116520 (104) E-mail: psi@fzf.ukim.edu.mk Contact person: Mihajlo Popovski E-mail: mihajlo@fzf.ukim.edu.mk		
Institute of Sociology	Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia Web site: http://soc.fzf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: +389 02 3116-520 ext: 211 E-Mail: soc@fzf.ukim.edu.mk Contact person: Antoanela Petkovska E-mail: antonela@fzf.ukim.edu.mk	11 PhDs, 3 MAs	sociology of culture, sociology of ethnic groups, urban sociology, economic sociology, political sociology and sociology of religion
Department of Gender Studies (in the frames of the Institute for Humanistic Studies)	Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia Web-site: http://rs.fzf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: +389 02 3116 520, ext. 218 Contact person: Slobodanka Markovska E-mail: slobodanka@fzf.ukim.edu.mk	4 PhDs	Interdisciplinary approach of analysis of gender issues (presumptions for male and female, relations between them, discrepancy in gender equality in relation to social, religious, national and other factors, etc.)
Faculty of Economy	Address: Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, R.Macedonia Web site: http://www.eccf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: (02) 3286-800 Fax: (02) 3118-701 Contact: Ljupco Eftimov E-mail: eftimov@eccf.ukim.edu.mk	50 PhDs, 7 MAs, 20 BAs	macroeconomic politics, strategy of social-economic development, economical relations of our country with other countries, management, marketing, economy of enterprises, accounting business finances, transforming of the accounting and business finances, transformation of the state-owned companies, the market and the prices, finances, banking etc.
Faculty of Law 'Iustianus Prima'	Address: Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Web site: www.pf.ukim.edu.mk Tel: +389 23 117 244 Fax: +389 23 227 549 Contact Person: Sasho Gorgievski E-mail: icvd@pf.ukim.edu.mk	50 PhDs, 8 MAs, 7 BAs	development of legislatives, implementation of the European legal standards in the Macedonian legal system, constitutional changes, transition and transformation of the social system, European legal standards and their implementation in the Macedonian legislative,

			the challenges of the Macedonian legal system in the upcoming period, the civil society etc
SEEU - South East European University- Research Centre	Address: St. Ilindenska bb 1200 Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia Web site: http://www.seeu.edu.mk/english/research/index.asp Tel. +389 44 356 000; Fax. +389 44 356 001 Contact person: Diturije Ismaili , Head of Research Office Tel: +389 44 356 119 Fax: +389 44 356 111 E-mail: d.ismaili@seeu.edu.mk	101 PhDs, 103 MAs, 74 BAs	socio-economic sciences, environment, law, economy, public administration, IT and communication sciences
RESEARCH INSTITUTES			
Economic Institute	Address: Prolet, No.1 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: 389 2 3115-076 Fax: 389 2 3226-350 Contact person: Biljana Angelova, Ph.D. Tel: 389 2 3115-076, ext.107 E-mail: angelova@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk	10 PhDs, 7 MAs, 4 BAs	economic and regional development, human development, economic system and economic policy, labour force and demographics, international economic relations, economic and development of different sectors, mobility and allocation of production factors, living standard of the population, production and economic re-structuring, organization and development of enterprises, investments, marketing, business policy and business finances, information systems, company management etc.
Institute for Social, Political and Judicial Research (ISPJR)	Address: Blvd. Partizanski odredi bb 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: 389 2 3065-195 Fax: 389 2 3061-282 E-mail: ispidir@isppi.ukim.edu.mk Contact person: Dijana Stojanovic E-mail: stojanovic@isppi.ukim.edu.mk	12 scientific advisors, 2 higher scientific associates, 5 assistants, 2 junior assistants	Elections; Political Institutions; Public Opinion; Interethnic Relations; Local Government; Public Policy; Public Administration; Strategic (National Security) Studies; European & Balkan Studies; Human Rights; Gender Studies; Social Pathology and Criminology; Forced Migrations and Refugees; Communications and Media

Euro-Balkan - Institute for Social and Humanitarian Research	Address: No. 63, "Partizanski odredi" Blvd 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia Tel/Fax: + 389 (0)2 3075 570 Web-site: www.euba.org.mk E-mail: ebalkan@snet.org.mk ; eurobalkan@gmail.com Contact person: Ana Mukoska E-mail: amukoska@yahoo.com	6 PhDs (4 full-time employees, 2 contracted on author's honorarium bases); 1 PhD candidate, 2 MSc, 4 Master students (1 full-time position, 3 part-time positions) and 1 student (full-time position).	development of the most modern programs for scientific research and inter-disciplinary learning in the social and humanistic sciences, especially in the areas of gender studies, Balkan cultural studies, and political studies about South-Eastern Europe
THINK-TANKS (POLICY RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS)			
Analytica	Address: Dame Gruev No:7-8/3, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: www.analyticamk.org Tel: +389.2.312.1948 Fax: +389.2.312.1948 Contact person: Turker Miftar Email: info@analyticamk.org , tmiftar@analyticamk.org	3 MAs, 1 BA and 1 BSc	EU approximation, security, public administration reforms, energy and environment
CEA -Center for Economic Analysis	Address: Blvd. Jane Sandanski 63/3 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: www.cea.org.mk Tel/Fax: +38922444766 Mobile: +38970834636 Contact person: Marjan Nikolov E-mail: makmar2000@yahoo.com , info@cea.com.mk	1 PhD, 4 MSc, 11 BAs in economy	Local government, fiscal decentralization, fiscal policy, monetary policy, real and trade sector, finances, accounting, banking, macro economy and environmental management.

CRPM - Center for Research and Policy Making	Address: S. Mirche Macan bb 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: http://www.crpm.org.mk Tel. +389 2 3216 645 (6) Contact person: Riste Zmejkovski E-mail: crpm@europe.com , crpm@crpm.org.mk	1 PhD, 1 PhD candidate, 3 MAs, 2 MA candidates, 3 BAs	Local socio-economic development, Macedonian politics; education, healthcare, social security; good governance and budget monitoring; migration
EPRI- Economic Policy Research Institute	Address: Puskinova 11-3/12 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Web site: www.epri-macedonia.org Tel: +389 02 3122543 Fax: +389 02 774355 Contact person: Yordanka Gancheva E-mail: yordankag@gmail.com	1 MA, 1 BA, 2 seniors at University.	Economic analysis of various public policy issues (social protection, healthcare etc.)
IDSC - Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis"	Address: Kraguevacka St. 2 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: http://www.idscs.org.mk Tel. +389 2 3094 760 Fax: +389 2 3094 760 Contact person: Vladimir Misev E-mail: misev@idscs.org.mk , contact@idscs.org.mk	6 MAs (3 PhD candidates) 3 BAs	Macedonian Euro-Atlantic integration, political system and local self-government, and public opinion
FORUM-Center for Strategic Research and Documentation	Address: Kosta Novakovik 16 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: www.forum-csrd.org.mk Tel/Fax: +389 (0)2 23 12 11 00 Contact person: Aleksandar Matovski E-Mail: forumcsrd@forum-csrd.org.mk	17 employees, intellectuals from the areas of journalism, political sciences, law, etc., holding BAs, MAs, and PhDs.	democracy, security, politics, economy, EU integration and multiethnic dialogue
OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and	Address: Dimitrije Tucovic 24, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia Web-site: www.oi.org.mk	22 people (BAs,	international affairs, international security, peace studies, conflict management, economic strategies, with special attention to

International Affairs	Tel: + 389 2 3224 457 Contact person: Biljana Janeva E-mail: b.janeva@oi.org.mk, info@oi.org.mk	MAAs, and PhDs in the areas of economics, political science, law, culture and arts, etc.), not all on a full-time basis	Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic aspiration and the economic and political circumstances and effects
'Studiorum'-Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation	Address: Nikola Parapunov bb POB 484, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Web-site: www.studiorum.org.mk Tel/fax: +389.2.3065-837 Contact person: Neda Milevska-Kostova E-mail: milevska@studiorum.org.mk; office@studiorum.org.mk	6 full-time (2 MAs and 4 BAs) and about 15 part-time employees	public health; environmental care; social inclusion and poverty reduction; and the new media and society
DONOR ORGANISATIONS			
FOSIM-Foundation Open Society Institute-Macedonia	Address: Bvd. Jane Sandanski 111 POBox 378, 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389 2 2444 488 Fax: +389 2 2444 499 Web-site: www.soros.org.mk E-mail: osi@soros.org.mk		education, media, public health, human rights and gender rights; social, legal, and economic reforms
European Commission (EC)	Address: Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin 52v 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Telephone: (+389 2) 3248 500 Tel/Fax: (+389 2) 3248 501 E-mail: Delegation-FYRMacedonia@ec.europa.eu Web-site: http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm		development of political, economic and trade relations between the European Union and Macedonia, promotion of EU values
FES-Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	Address: Bul. "Sv. Kliment Ohridski " 21/1 1000 Skopje, Macedonia P.O.Box. 423. Tel: + 389 2 3232 656;		socio-political dialogue (democratization), implementation of the peace agreement, conflict prevention, minority policy, Euro-Atlantic

	+ 389 2 3232 637. Web-site: www.fes.org.mk E-mail: contact@fes.org.mk		integration, regional and international cooperation, social dialogue and labour relations
KAS-Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	Address: St. Maksim Gorki 16 / 3 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389 2 323 11 22 Fax: +389 2 313 52 90 Web-site: http://www.kas.de/proj/home/home/42/2/index.html E-Mail: kas@kas.com.mk		political, social, and economic topics, such as religious freedom and dialogue, social market economy, EU and NATO partnership
USAID-United States Agency for International Development	Address: Jurij Gagarin 15/III 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: + 389-2 308-0446 Fax: + 389-2 308-0449 Web-site: http://macedonia.usaid.gov E-mail: ykoteska@usaid.gov		economic growth, democratic modernization and educational reform
The World Bank	Address: 34 Leninova St. 1000, Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389 2 3117 159 Fax: +389 2 3117 627 Web-site: www.worldbank.org.mk Contact person: Denis Boskovski E-mail: dboskovski@worldbank.org		fostering economic growth, job creation, and increasing the living standards of all; and improving the governance and transparency of public service delivery to support the market economy
OSCE- Spill over Monitor Mission to Skopje	Address: 11 Oktomvri str. 25, QBE Building 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389-2 323 4000 Fax: +389-2 323 4234 Web-site: http://www.osce.org/skopje		monitoring; police training and development; and other political activities related to the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement
UN-United Nations	Address: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, 8-ma Udarna Brigada.2 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389 2 3249 502 Fax: +389 2 3249 505 Email: rc.mk@undp.org		human rights, environment protection, global security, fight disease and poverty reduction

	Web: www.un.org.mk		
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Appendix 2: List of topics researched and implementing institutions⁴⁰

Topic ⁴¹	Implementing institution	Funded by: ⁴²
EU and NATO approximation and integration		
Of Homework and Roadmaps: How to Speed up EU Integration of Macedonia	Analytica	
Grassroots Europeanisation in the Western Balkans is just starting: Visa facilitation	Analytica	
A threshold for European aspirations. NATO membership	Analytica	
National program's revision of the Government of Republic of Macedonia for acceptance regulations of EU 2006	Euro Balkan	
Analysing the press media coverage in relation to the processes of euro integration	Euro Balkan	
The Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic integrations	MANU, Centre for Strategic Research	
Perspectives of the Republic of Macedonia on its way towards NATO and EU	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	
Joint External and Security Policy of EU	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	MoES
The changes in media regulations in the Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the EU processes	ISPJR	MoES
Harmonization of the Legal System in the Republic of Macedonia with the Law of the European Union	MANU, Department of Social Sciences	
Social Policy in Macedonia: Progress with EU Approximation	Analytica	
Eurobarometer	Brima Gallup Surveying Agency	EC
Social protection		
CONNECT: Components, organization, costs and outcomes of health care and community-based interventions for people with posttraumatic stress following war and conflict in the Balkans	Psychiatry Clinic + Institute of Psychology	EC: 6 th Framework Programme
Social Protection and Social Inclusion	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	EC
Public opinion assessment of the social security	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNDP

⁴⁰ Note that the research projects stated in this list include only the most significant projects conducted on the level of institution, and not studies conducted by individual researchers for their personal needs.

⁴¹ A number of topics are interdisciplinary. However, they were placed in one category based on the assessment of the primary topic.

⁴² Where the funding partner is not stated, it is either unknown, or the institution has conducted the project utilizing its own funds.

Assessment of the policies, conditions and programs for children on the streets	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNICEF
Local socio-economic development		
Kavadarci Market Research	IDSC	World Bank
How to Make the Economy of Gostivar a Champion	CRPM	Olof Palme International Center and OSI Macedonia
Kumanovo Market Research	CRPM	IOM
Tetovo, economic status and development	SEEEU, Business Administration Department	
Socio-economic development of the rural municipalities of Pollogu i Poshtëm	SEEEU, Public Administration Department	
Inter-ethnic Relations, Education and Economic Perspectives of the Municipality of Jegunovce	IDSC	Nansen Dialogue Center
Discovering the Hidden Opportunities of Delcevo and Blagoevgrad	CRPM	European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)
Conflict prevention and security		
Strategic overview of armed violence data collection and analysis mechanisms (South Eastern Europe)	IDSC	Small Arms Survey from Geneva, Bonn International Centre for Conversion, UNDP
Globalisation of Peace and Security	Institute for Defense and Peace studies	Faculty of Philosophy and Ministry of Defense
Conflict Prevention	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	FES
Personal and public security and multiethnic policy	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Health policy		
Patient rights in South-East Europe	Studiorum	
Public-private partnership in healthcare	Studiorum	
Model for Healthcare Budget Watch – Macedonia	EPRI and Euro Balkan	OSI
Rationalisation of the Hospital Services in Macedonia: Case Studies: Skopje, Tetovo, Sveti Nikole, Negotino	CRPM	LGI-Budapest
Assessment of companies		
Assessment of pharmacies	Economic Institute	
Preparing a study and assessment of the property of GTC (City Shopping Centre)	Economic Institute	
Assessment of 'ELEM' companies	Economic Institute	
Assessment of 'Olympic pool'	Economic Institute	
Assessment of the Property and Capital of the Public Company 'Vodovod'	Economic Institute	
Evaluating/assessing the price of 'Gradski Apteki' (City Pharmacies)	Faculty of Economy	Ministry of Economy

In depth analysis of 'FOD' Novaci	Faculty of Economy	
Gender issues		
Measuring the Costs of Domestic Violence against Woman in R. Macedonia	EPRI	UNIFEM
Diagnosis related groups and unpaid care work of women	CRPM	UNIFEM
Gender perspective of human trafficking	Euro Balkan	
Gender perspective in building (implementation and promotion) of a national strategy for the fight against human trafficking	Euro Balkan	
The position of the Roma woman in Slovenia and Macedonia	Institute of Sociology – Skopje and adjacent institute in Slovenia	MoES
Bio/technoscience and Gender: the Strange Hybrid of the Intersection between the Natural and Social Sciences	Euro Balkan	
Mapping the key concepts in gender studies and creating 'cartography' of their Balkan specificity	Euro Balkan	
Teaching the Gender Studies: Questions of Efficaciousness, Excellence and Innovativeness through Teaching	Euro Balkan	
The Question of 'Europeanism': Situatedness within the Balkan Identity in the Light of the European Prospects and the Issue of Gender	Euro Balkan	
The Challenges of the Interdisciplinary Character of the Gender Studies	Euro Balkan	
GE.M.IC.: Gender, Migration and Intercultural Interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe: an interdisciplinary perspective	Euro Balkan	EC: 7 th Framework Programme
Labour issues		
World Bank Recipe for the Macedonian Pension Reform - Too expensive and overregulated	CRPM	
From Social Benefits to Employment	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	Spark-Netherlands
Unemployment – risks and reactions	ISPJR	MoES
Employment: Progress with EU Approximation in Macedonia	Analytica	
General political and economic issues		
Leadership Monitoring Reports	OHRID institute	
Analyzing Macedonian political, economic, and social context (independent context watch)	FORUM	SDC
Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and sources and forms of threats to it	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	
Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of Macedonia's relations with its neighbours (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia)	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	
Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of the relations between Macedonia and Turkey	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	

Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement	ISJPR and FES	FES
Priorities in political culture and economic development (public opinion survey)	OHRID institute	
Has regional cooperation led to the establishment of Balkania: Europe's Southeastern Dimension?	Analytica	
Assessment of Good Governance Potential in Macedonia	Various authors	OSI
RACWeB: Risk Assessment for customs in Western Balkans	Faculty of Economics and Customs Administration of R.M.	EC: 6 th Framework Programme
WEB-MOB: Development of Researchers Mobility Policy Guidelines for the Region of Western Balkans	MANU	EC: 6 th Framework Programme
Education		
Tertiary education in focus: studying the reasons for low graduation rates in Macedonia	IDSC	
To Study (Abroad) Or Not? The Problem Of The Recognition Of Diplomas Issued - By Foreign Universities	CRPM	BTD
Religious Education 2006: How to Escape the Mistakes from 2002	CRPM	
The curricular presence of religion in specific social and humanistic subjects in the elementary and secondary education	Department of Humanistic Studies	OSI
Influence of the communication teacher-student upon the dedication of university students	SEEU-Teacher Training Department	
Children/Youth		
Child Poverty Study in the Republic of Macedonia	EPRI	UNICEF
Youth aspiration survey in the Republic of Macedonia'	IDSC and FES	FES
Juvenile criminality in the transition of the Republic of Macedonia	IPSJR	
Students perception of global political and religious phenomena	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Study of Child Trafficking in the FYR of Macedonia	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNICEF
Migration		
Study on remittances in Macedonia	CEA	USAID BEA
Strengthening cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkan regarding migration management	CRPM	BTD
Migration and Development: Creating regional labour market and labour migrants circulation as response to regional market demands	CRPM	BTD
Global Refugee Trends		UNHCR
Media analysis		
Ethnographic research of the television audience in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU - Faculty of Communication Sciences and Technologies	MoES
Budget transparency and monitoring		

Budget Watchdogs	CRPM	USAID
Inter-ethnic relations		
The human values of sports in the function of promoting the inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia		UNESCO
The relations between Macedonians and Albanians (1878-1913)	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Integrated bilingualism in Public Administration of the local level	SEEU – Teacher Training Department	
Economic development		
Fiscal Factor in the Future Development of Macedonia	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Modern Trends of the Microeconomic Science and the Implications to the State Regulation	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
The relevance of the latest macro-economic theories for the economy of Republic of Macedonia	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Towards a dynamic and sustainable growth of Republic of Macedonia: Implementation of policies for economic growth enhancement	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Local Financial Systems and Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Transition Countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe	Faculty of Economy	
Privatization, Corporate Management and Industrial Policy in Slovenia and Macedonia	Faculty of Economy	
Sukuk – interest – free (muslim) bonds and their possible application in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Business Administration Department	
The relevance of the direct marketing in the development of small and medium enterprises, especially in the region of Tetova	SEEU-Business Administration Department	
Strategy for Development of the Textile Industry in the Republic of Macedonia'	Economic Institute	
Role of the institutions for Economic Development of Countries with special accent in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU- Business Administration Reform	
Isolation Overcoming, Development Strategy and Policy for Cross-border Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe	Faculty of Economy	
Analyses of specific economic issues		
Research on the determinants of raising capital through credit and/or equity in Macedonia	CEA and IDSC	USAID
Upgrade of the CEA Macro model with sub-national data level and simulating macroeconomic stability	CEA	
System engineering in the area of financial management and tax administration at LGU level	CEA	UNDP
Evaluation of the process of decentralization and financial analysis of the LSG financial statements	CEA	OSCE
Identification and measuring transaction costs in the Macedonian economy	CEA	OSI
Macedonian Clothes for Europe	CRPM	Olof Palme International

		Center and OSI Macedonia
Legal analyses / Evaluation of legal reforms		
Legal aspects of Human Trafficking	SEEEU- Law Department	
Rule of law and reforms in public administration	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Legal status of ex-participants of National Liberation Army	SEEU – Public Administration Department	
Evaluation of Public Administration Reforms in Macedonia	Analytica	
The Status of “Incitement Of Ethnic, Racial And Religious Hatred” Offense Under The Criminal Code of Macedonia after the Vranishkovski Case	CRPM	
Political Economy of the Judiciary Reforms in Macedonia	CRPM	
External oversight of the law-enforcement bodies	OCSE	OSCE
Organized crime: theoretical analyses and practical implications, with special emphasis on the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Law Department	
Human resources		
Management capacities and human resources in the units of local self-government	ISPJR	
Human Resources Management and Practices in Macedonian Civil Service	Analytica	
The role of citizens in the decision-making process in the areas of local importance	ISPJR	
Decentralisation		
Decentralization processes: Citizen’s views	ISPJR and Economic Institute	FES
Conceptualizing decentralization trends in Macedonia	Analytica	
Surveys on Decentralization	OSCE - Public Administration Reform Department	OSCE
Human rights		
International and national legal framework for human rights – Macedonia	ISPJR and Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights	UNDP
Research on the treatment of prisoners	SEEU-Rector	
Protection of witnesses, collaborators of justice and the victims in domestic and international law	Various authors	IOM
Miscellaneous topics		
Sport Betting as a Social Phenomenon in Republic of Macedonia	CRPM	BTD
Flying Cheap To Macedonia - A Mission Impossible?	CRPM	BTD
Mechanisms and best practices of cooperation between the local self-government and the non-governmental organizations	Studiorum	
De-secularization of Macedonian society	ISPJR	

The position of the family in the transitional period of Macedonia	ISPJR	
Measuring cultural awareness in foreign language teaching	SEEU- Teacher Training Department	
European Values Study	Institute of Psychology and Institute of Sociology	Faculty of Philosophy and OSI
Living standards measurement survey (LSMS) in the Republic of Macedonia”	SEEU - Business Administration Department	
Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Law Department	
Population of The Republic of Macedonia	MANU-Centre for Strategic Research	
The political identities in the Republic of Macedonia	ISPJR	
Structures of the archaic religious culture in Slovenia and Macedonia and their relations	Institute of History of Arts and Archaeology and an adjacent institute in Slovenia	MoES
People-Centred Analysis Report	Brima Gallup and various authors	UNDP